WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for dynamically switching between network protocols, the method comprising:

conducting network communications from a client system via a first network protocol;

receiving, in the client system, performance data for the first network protocol;

receiving, in the client system, performance data for a second network protocol available to the client system;

while conducting network communications with the first network protocol, automatically determining whether switching from the first network protocol to the second network protocol would improve performance for the client system; and

in response to determining that switching to the second network protocol would cause improved performance for the client, automatically switching from the first network protocol to the second network protocol.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the first network protocol and second network protocol comprise a wireless network protocol selected from the group consisting of 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g.

3.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, in the client system, performance data for a third network protocol available to the client

5   system;

while conducting network communications with the first network protocol automatically determining whether switching from the first network protocol to the third network protocol would improve performance for the client

10   system; and

in response to determining that switching to the third network protocol would cause improved performance for the client, automatically switching from the first network protocol to the third network protocol.

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4.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining that switching to the second network would cause improved performance based on energy consumption for the client system; and

20   switching from the first network protocol to the second network protocol.

5.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

storing performance data for the first network

25   protocol and second network protocol in the client system; and

accessing the performance data for the first network protocol and second network protocol.

6.   The method of Claim 1, wherein performance data for the first network protocol and second network protocol comprises signal quality data.

5   7.   The method of Claim 1, wherein performance data for the first network protocol and second network protocol comprises signal strength data.

8.   An information handling system for dynamically switching between network protocols, the system comprising:

a receiver module operable to receive communications

5   governed by at least two network protocols;

a performance data module associated with the receiver module, the performance data module operable to obtain network performance data for the at least two network protocols; and

10   a dynamic switching module associated with the performance data module, the dynamic switching module operable to monitor performance data and dynamically switch between network protocols based on the network performance data.

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9.   The information handling system of Claim 8, further comprising a performance data storage module operable to store performance data, the performance data storage module associated with the performance data

20   module and the dynamic switching module.

10.   The information handling system of Claim 9, wherein the performance data storage module further comprises at least one register, the register operable to

25   store performance data.

11.   The information handling system of Claim 8,
wherein the dynamic switching module further comprises:
a network protocol setting module operable to
identify wireless communications according to the at
5   least two network protocols;
a performance data comparison module operable to
compare performance data for the at least two network
protocols, and determine if switching to a second network
protocol would improve network performance; and
10   the dynamic switching module operable to switch to a
second network protocol if the performance data
comparison module determines that switching to a second
network protocol would cause improved performance.

15   12.   The information handling system of Claim 8,
wherein the at least two network protocols comprise
wireless network protocols selected from the group
consisting of 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g.

20   13.   The information handling system of Claim 8,
wherein the performance data module further comprises a
signal quality indicator operable to monitor signal
quality associated with communications according to each
of the at least two network protocols.

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14.   The information handling system of Claim 8,
wherein the performance data module further comprises a
signal strength indicator operable to monitor received
signal strength of communications according to each of
5   the at least two network protocols.

15. A wireless network access card for dynamically switching between network protocols, the card comprising: a performance data receiver module, operable to receive performance data for communications according to at least
5   two network protocols; and

a dynamic switching module associated with the performance data receiver module, the dynamic switching module operable to monitor and compare performance data of at least two network protocols and dynamically switch
10   network protocols based on performance data.

16. The card of Claim 15, the dynamic switching module further comprising:

a network protocol setting module operable to
15   identify wireless communications according to the at least two network protocols;

a performance data comparison module operable to compare performance data for the at least two network protocols and determine if switching to a second network
20   protocol would improve performance; and

the dynamic switching module operable to switch to a second network protocol if the performance data comparison module determines that switching to a second network protocol would cause improved performance.

17. The card of Claim 15, further comprising at least one storage register, the storage register associated with the performance data receiver module and the dynamic switching module and operable to receive

5   performance data from the performance data receiver module and provide performance data to the dynamic switching module.

18. The card of Claim 15, wherein the performance
10   data receiver module further comprises:

a signal quality indicator operable to monitor signal quality associated with communications according to each of the at least two network protocols; and

a signal strength indicator operable to monitor
15   received signal strength associated with communications according to each of the at least two network protocols.

19. The card of Claim 15, wherein the at least two network protocols comprise wireless network protocols
20   selected from the group consisting of 802.11a, 802.11b and 802.11g.

20. The card of Claim 15, further comprising a receiver module operable to receive communications
25   governed by the at least two network protocols